

REMARKS

By way of this response, claims 1, 15, and 28 have been amended. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 15, 28, and 29 remain pending and at issue, with claims 1, 15, and 28 being independent. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application.

The Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 7-11, 15, 28, and 29 were rejected as anticipated by Allen (U.S. Patent No. 5,899,303) and claims 4-6 were rejected as unpatentable over Allen in view of Clark (U.S. Patent No. 2,878,532). It is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable over these patents for the reasons set forth below.

The applicants have amended independent claims 1, 15, and 28, to clarify that which was implicit in the original claim language. As amended, the independent claims are generally directed to a door for at least partially covering a doorway defined by a wall and a lower surface, wherein a ray orthogonal to the generally planar first sealing surface intersects the surface of a first door panel. In particular, independent claim 1 includes a first seal including a generally planar sealing surface interposed between a first attachment end of the first seal and a first distal end of the first seal and a second seal interposed between a second attachment end of the second seal and a second distal end of the second seal. The first sealing surface is located such that a ray orthogonal to the sealing surface intersects the surface of the door panel.

Independent claim 15 includes a first seal having a generally planar first sealing surface that faces the surface of the first door panel so that a ray orthogonal to the generally planar first sealing surface intersects the surface of the first door panel. Independent claim 28 recites a generally planar first sealing surface that faces and is spaced from the surface of the

first door panel and arranged such that a ray orthogonal to the generally planar first sealing surface intersects the surface of the first door panel.

While Allen generally teaches the use of seals in connection with translating door panels, Allen fails to disclose the seal and door panel configuration recited in claim 1. In particular, among other deficiencies, Allen fails to disclose a seal attached to the first door panel so that a ray orthogonal to the generally planar first sealing surface intersects the surface of the first door panel. On the contrary, the examples referenced in the official action (i.e., FIGS. 10A, 10B, 12A, and 12B of Allen) illustrate seals having sealing surfaces configured to be perpendicular to the surface of the door panel. Specifically, the surfaces of the seals 124 and 126 (the only surfaces that contact one another) are perpendicular to the surfaces of the doors 94 and 98. Thus, the seals of Allen do not have a sealing surface such that a ray orthogonal to the sealing surface intersects the surface of the door panel as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, the applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify that the generally planar sealing surface is interposed between a first attachment end and a first distal end, defined in relation to the first seal. In the present action the examiner's illustration regarding the teachings of Allen shows that the examiner is defining the attachment end and the distal end in relation to the door panel. Allen clearly does not teach or suggest that sealing surface is interposed between an attachment end and a distal end of seal.

Thus, it is clear from the foregoing, that Allen fails to disclose at least the seal configuration recited in claim 1 and, thus, fails to disclose every limitation recited in claim 1. As a result, Allen fails to anticipate the apparatus recited in claim 1. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the anticipation rejection of claim 1 based on Allen and submit that claim 1 and claims 2 and 4-11 dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

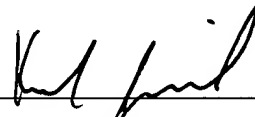
The remaining independent claims 15 and 28 are allowable for at least the reason that Allen does not describe a sealing surface arranged so that an orthogonal ray intersects the surface of the door panel as set forth above in connection with claim 1. Accordingly, claims 15, 28 and 29 are also in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. If, for any reason, the examiner is unable to allow the application in the next office action, the examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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